

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

REPORT

OF THE

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR CANADA

FOR

Year ended March 31, 1909

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EXCELLENT MAJESTY

1909

REPORT

OF THE

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR CANADA

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR CANADA,
17 VICTORIA STREET, LONDON, S.W., September 23, 1909.

The Honourable
The Minister of the Interior,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit the annual reports of the emigration agents of your department in Europe for the year ended March 31, 1909. These gentlemen are as follows:—

J. Obed Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Emigration, 11-12 Charing Cross, London, S.W.
Alfred F. Jury, Old Castle Buildings, Preeson's Row, Liverpool.
G. H. Mitchell, 139 Corporation street, Birmingham.
A. McOwan, 81 Queen street, Exeter.
L. Burnett, 10 Parliament street, York.
John Webster, 17-19 Victoria street, Belfast.
John McLennan, 26 Guild street, Aberdeen.
Edward O'Kelly, 44 Dawson street, Dublin.
Malcolm McIntyre, 35-37 St. Enoch square, Glasgow.

(The above reports are published in, and form part of, the annual report of the Interior Department.)

I much regret to have to record the death of Mr. H. M. Murray, late emigration agent at Exeter, an officer of some thirteen years' standing.

The practice adopted in previous years of sending Canadian delegates, men of substance, who have made a success of farming in Canada, to visit the United Kingdom for the purpose of supplementing the work of the permanent agents, has been continued. The following is a list of the delegates sent during the season under review:—

Mr. John Bildfell (as agent for Iceland).
Mr. John Bainsley, of Abernethy, Sask.
Mr. S. Y. Bullis, of Watson, Sask.
Mr. C. R. Duxbury, of Elkhorn, Man.
Mr. P. Escaravage, of Wauchope, Sask.
Mr. Joshua Fletcher, of Ellerslie, Alta.
Mr. W. Griffiths, of Brockville, Ont.
Mr. William Lang, of Strathcona, Alta.
Mr. C. C. Meyer, of Ottawa.
Mr. Myles MacArthur, of Whitewood, Sask.
Mr. Leon Morel, of Edmonton, Alta.
Mr. Joseph Oliver, of New London, Alta.
Mr. Haderer.
Mr. Thomas Sales, of Langham, Sask.
Mr. William Spurrell, of Blackfalds, Alta.
Mr. James Swain, of Morris, Man.
Mr. Gottfried Schaffer, of Humboldt, Sask.
Mr. James Sinclair, of Prince Albert, Sask.
Mr. Herbert Wilkinson, of Meota, Sask., and
Mr. van den Broeck.

9-10 EDWARD VII., A. 1910

The effect of the world wide depression, which commenced in the latter part of 1907, and was particularly felt in the United States, continued throughout the year 1908 in an even more acute form, and Canada was naturally affected with the other countries.

Among the effects largely attributable to this depression is a considerable decrease in the volume of emigration not only from Europe to Canada, but also from this continent to the United States, and all the transatlantic steamship companies carrying passengers have experienced a great shrinkage in their traffic.

It must also be added that the restrictive measures which, on the advice of your department, the Canadian government have adopted, while they have undoubtedly had the effect of debarring that more or less undesirable class of emigrant which from one source or another was entering Canada, have at the same time been a factor making for a decrease in emigration. While there may be a tendency in certain quarters to cavil at these restrictive regulations, no one having the best interests of Canada at heart but will desire that the class of those emigrating to Canada shall be of the very best.

The following figures, derived from the statistical tables relating to emigration and immigration from and into the United Kingdom, recently laid before the House of Commons by the President of the Board of Trade, will be of interest:—

MOVEMENT TO CANADA.

1908.			1907.		
British Subjects.	Non-British.	Total.	British Subjects.	Non-British.	Total.*
81,321	14,107	95,428	151,216	34,560	185,831

Arising from the depression already mentioned, there was a slight increase in the movement from Canada to the United Kingdom, and the figures are given below:—

1908.			1907.		
British Subjects.	Non-British.	Total.	British Subjects.	Non-British.	Total.*
39,866	23,213	63,079	33,691	19,770	53,477

The excess of emigration to Canada over this inward movement is shown in the following figures, and it will be noticed that the movement from Canada to the United Kingdom in 1908 of persons of non-British origin is considerably more than the movement to Canada from the United Kingdom in the same category:—

1908.			1907.		
British Subjects.	Non-British.	Total.	British Subjects.	Non-British.	Total.*
41,455	9,106	32,349	117,525	14,790	132,354

*Includes a number whose nationality was not distinguished.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 25c

The decrease in the emigration of British subjects to Canada continued in the first quarter of 1909, but the balance was to some extent redressed by a decrease in the inward movement to this country. A considerable increase in the outward movement of foreigners is also noticeable, and there has been a large decrease in the inward movement from Canada of non-British subjects, the balance showing an increase in favour of Canada over the figures of the first quarter of 1908 of 6,470. The net increase in the emigration into Canada from or passing through the United Kingdom for the quarter is 4,904. The table is given below:—

First Quarter of 1909.				First Quarter of 1908.		
	British Subjects.	Non-British.	Total.	British Subjects.	Non-British.	Total.
Outward....	12,916	4,525	17,441	15,774	2,482	18,256
Inward.....	3,611	1,045	4,656	4,903	5,472	10,375
Balance ..	9,305	3,480	12,785	10,871	2,990	7,881

The news cable service instituted in October, 1906, continues to give satisfactory results. The cablegram forwarded to me weekly by your department, containing news which is of interest to the general public as well as to the commercial community, is circulated not only to the press but furnished direct to the Canadian railway and steamship concerns represented here, the heads of all the great financial institutions, the Canadian emigration agencies, and also to a large number of influential financiers and others identified with Canadian interests in this country. Many of the concerns to whom this information is conveyed have excellent facilities for displaying the cable messages in conspicuous places where they are brought directly under the notice of the public. Others incorporate them in business circulars, reports and bulletins. In these and other ways this service obtains publicity to an extent so large as to be most gratifying, especially when the small cost is taken into consideration.

In addition to this cable service every opportunity is taken of bringing before the public any matters concerning Canada which are of general interest in Great Britain, and which relate to the agricultural or industrial development of the Dominion. Bulletins based on official information (such, for instance, as the Census and Statistics Monthly of the Department of Agriculture) are also made public in the same way, and very satisfactory results have been obtained.

An important subject which has been referred to in previous reports is the action of some magistrates in discharging convicted prisoners on the understanding that their relatives or friends would send them to Canada. This matter has been vigorously and persistently taken up with the authorities and others in Great Britain, and I am glad to be able to report that in the year now under review such cases have almost ceased, but should any further arise they will be promptly taken up and dealt with as circumstances may require.

During the year 1908 several cases arose in which persons complained of what they claimed to be wrongful deportation. From time to time such complaints have received publicity in the press; and, in addition, the aggrieved parties have communicated with the High Commissioner, or have brought their grievances before public men in this country. It has been a source of satisfaction to me to receive assurances that the provisions of the Act are administered most carefully, and that everything possible is done to treat those who are so unfortunate as to come under its operations with due consideration.

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The relief of Canadians who, from one reason or another, become destitute in Europe is a matter to which this Department devotes much consideration during the course of the year. The fund appropriated by parliament for this purpose is a very small one, and needs careful distribution in order to meet the demands made upon it. During the past year ninety persons applied for assistance. For twenty-eight of these return passages to Canada were procured, and of the balance fifty-one were provided with temporary subsistence money, or lodging or clothing. With regard to the remaining eleven persons, the conclusion was arrived at, after careful investigation of the claims presented, that they did not warrant the extension of any government aid.

Assistance to distressed Canadians has also been extended by the British Consuls at various foreign points. In such cases it is the custom to act as far as practicable upon their recommendations, and to honour any claims they may make for expenditures. The service rendered by His Britannic Majesty's Consuls to Canadian subjects is one that is much appreciated.

With the recurrence of prosperity in Canada there is every reason to hope that the volume of emigration for many years to come, subject to periodic fluctuations imposed by the economic situation, will be well maintained. At the same time sight must not be lost of the important fact of the marked tendency on the part of those European governments under whose jurisdiction are those large emigration areas whence great numbers have migrated to North America to adopt measures making for retention of their populations.

I am, sir,

Your obedient servant,

STRATHCONA,
High Commissioner.

